

Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk to the Council:

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Clerk: James Bercovici
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Chairman: Mr R Lewis
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Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 8th November 2013 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Kay Blanchard
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Tim Harris
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Charlie Peachey
District Cllr Tim Huggan
County Cllr James Waters
PCSO David Cowan
James Bercovici (Clerk)

0. Opportunity for members of the Public to speak (3 minute limit, not statutory part of meeting).

David Shipley asked whether there is any progress in respect of the buildings he had complained about in October. The Clerk said he had raised these items with FHDC planning department and was awaiting a response. Cllr R Lewis outlined the complaints to Cllrs Huggan and Waters and asked the Clerk to forward the details to them. Cllr Huggan agreed there is legislation but said it is costly to enforce it; he said there is no money available for this. He said it would be more likely to succeed if there are environmental health issues. David Shipley said he would go direct to the Minister of State if necessary. Cllr Harris said that if there are no environmental health issues, the owner should be able to maintain his property as he sees fit. David Shipley said the properties were causing an offence to the eye.

1. Police Matters

PCSO Cowan reported two crimes, one of which occurred in the village, namely damage to a seat in the play area. He discussed speeding in the village and suggested the community speedwatch programme. Cllr F Lewis said this had been discussed before and that councillors were not keen on this but wondered whether it would be possible to exchange volunteers with other villages. PCSO Cowan could not see any reason why not. Cllr Boura suggested waiting to see if there was any response to PCSO Cowan's Barton Miller article first. Cllr R Lewis suggested that, if there is a response, then the Clerk could contact Freckenham and Worlington or Tuddenham to see if there is any interest in joining their schemes.

2. Courtesies. Apologies and Signing of the Register. Declarations of Interest.

Apologies: Cllr Harji
Declarations: none

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2013

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. Matters arising and pending (italicised text refers to historical background)

a. Playing Field - various issues:

i. Jubilee gate. *The Clerk had suggested that the gate needs attention but wanted to know how far councillors want to take this. He was asked to find a suitable contractor. Cllr R Lewis had thought sleeves (two per gate) are needed for the bolts. The Clerk had asked John Squire to do this but is looking for a suitable alternative. He has arranged to meet a local handyman.*

The Clerk has requested quotes for the repairs to the gate. Cllr R Lewis had said that if three similar quotes were obtained, the Clerk should have authority to select the most appropriate in liaison with himself and Cllr Boura: all in favour except Cllr Peachey (abstained). The Clerk has tried to contact Matt Wilson again and other local specialist woodworkers. No response from Woodworx and Trevor Chapman has advised that the present gates are not really worth repairing and it will cost a great deal to

do it all properly but has refrained from providing a quote.

- ii. Soakaway in the car park. *Quotes have been received from Dave Wickin (£1454), also for re-levelling the field and from Mitchell & Mayle in Isleham (£1455). Cllr Waters suggested digging the area out and filling it in to make a natural soakaway. The Clerk has met with James Waters who advised the meeting he will quote for this. Cllr Boura proposed that, if the new quote is the lowest, the Clerk should order this work immediately, using the field parking fund to pay for it: all in favour. The Clerk reminded James Waters who has provided a quote for £1168 including VAT. It was decided to defer consideration of this to the November meeting.* NB. A locality grant of £760 was agreed by former Councillor Frost and this has been carried forward. Cllr F Lewis suggested removing the curb to create a natural soakaway. Cllr R Lewis said three quotes had been received so the Parish Council needs to decide whether to proceed. Cllr Boura proposed accepting the lowest quote: all in favour.
- iii. Swings. *Cllr Boura asked if the Clerk could obtain quotes for painting the toddler swings. The Clerk had asked John Squires to quote for this. He has arranged to meet a local handyman.*
- iv. *The Clerk has requested a quote from the groundsman for re-seeding and general treatment of the field. No response to date so the Clerk will remind him about this. Still no response. Cllr Boura suggested asking him to quote for re-seeding in March.*
- b. Street lighting. *Cllr Boura asked if the Clerk could investigate a wayleave to erect a street light at 59 The Street. The Clerk notes that wayleaves are unpopular devices and has obtained a quote for almost £1000 so has drafted one for consideration. He has forwarded this to Colin Brotherton.*
- c. Car boot sales 2014. Cllr R Lewis said the meeting had been very successful with plenty of cooperation. One organisation does not want a car boot sale, leaving four organisations for the four bank holidays. The village hall had said it may have a problem with numbers for both the field and hall; Cllr R Lewis had suggested they could bring in the Youth for Christ volunteers in exchange for a contribution.
- d. Affordable housing. Isobel Wright reported good attendance and some new applicants at the open day on 30th October. There had been at least ten eligible applicants; Cllr R Lewis said unsuccessful applicants could apply to the Church Lane Close development. The Clerk said Isobel Wright had reported a need for one-bedroom properties in any future development. Cllr R Lewis said he had agreed to give Hastoe the back page of the December issue of the Barton Miller to advertise the next steps.
- e. Parish Forum report. Cllr Boura said the focus had been on broadband which did not affect Barton Mills. She said she had been given a map of the parish and parishes were asked mark out what they felt to be their 'local area'. Cllr Peachey asked what the purpose of this was; Cllr Boura thought it was to group parishes together. Cllr R Lewis said clarification of the reasoning behind this would be required. Cllr Boura said the next meeting is on 25th November.
- f. Safety at the A11 Chalk Hill junction. Cllr Boura had been asked to organise a petition but felt there was a danger that this could result in the crossing being closed. It was agreed to leave this alone.
- g. Draft Statement of community Involvement. Cllr R Lewis said there was nothing for the Parish Council to respond to at this time but that the next stage will consider the village boundaries. This will last for eight weeks from early in the new year. He asked how much input the Parish Council realistically has; Cllr Huggan said that FHDC has drafted a proposed boundary and the Parish Council can argue for changes. He said the draft for Barton Mills had changed very little. He thought the new plan would be in place by May/June 2014 and would last for 15 years. Cllr R Lewis acknowledged a potential conflict of interest.
- h. Memorial bench. The Parish Council previously agreed to purchase a bench in memory of John Wiggin. The District and County Councillors agreed to contribute £600 towards this. the bench will cost £748 excluding VAT (Streetmaster). Cllr Boura proposed approving this: all in favour.

5. Reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Huggan outlined his report, filed with the minutes. Cllr R Lewis asked about the proposal in respect of the land south of Worlington Road; Cllr Huggan said this was a pre-planning consultation which in itself was a good thing.

Cllr Waters was thanked by Cllr R Lewis for his help in obtaining the football goals. Cllr Waters perceived a need for reduced bureaucracy in respect of developers who had to pay bonds which they could otherwise use for things such as private roads or crossings such as that at Parker's Mill. He said the A11 improvements were going well and had been well tolerated locally. He observed that the Parish Council's comments had influenced the decision about the Fiveways development. He advised that SCC sponsors speedwatch. He said the village plan showed a need for more affordable housing and sustainable growth.

Cllr R Lewis asked about the Bridge Farm crossing. Cllr Waters said visibility had improved but the path opposite is too narrow and there is no room on the south side of the road. He said the possibilities had

been exhausted. Cllr R Lewis asked about Grange Lane flooding as there is no drainage. Cllr Waters said he would ask whether SCC could install drains but thought it unlikely. Cllr Flack alerted him to the pothole at Hassall's Corner.

6. Finance - Standard Payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- a. £280.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, October 2013) – chq. 1262
- b. £70.00 HMRC (PAYE, October 2013) – chq.
- c. £23.20 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses October 2013) - chq. 1262

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £1105.00 Sporting 87 (football coaching) - chq. 1263
- e. £67.50 BMVH (hall hire) - chq. 1264

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing all the payments: all in favour.

Other

The Clerk has applied to FHDC for reimbursement of item d.

7. Planning.

Note - *ITALICS: Parish Council comments passed to Forest Heath DC.* **Bold: Forest Heath DC decision**

General and for consideration:

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals

- a. DC/13/0302/HH - 4 Mildenhall Road - Erection of single storey front extension, alterations to carport to form garage and alterations to existing flat roofed rear extension to create a lean-to roof. *Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.*

Forest Heath Decisions

- b. DC/13/0250/HH – 24 Mildenhall Road – erection of single storey side extension – consultation on application received. *Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.* **APPROVE with conditions**
- c. F/2013/0416/HOU/BH - 22 The Street - erection of car port and creation of additional vehicular access. *Cllr Peachey proposed no objections: all in favour.* **APPROVE with conditions**
- d. F/2013/0417/FUL/SD - Walnut Tree Farm, Bell Lane - Re-submission of planning application F/2013/0224/FUL - Conversion of barn to form new dwelling and erection of extension to rear (following demolition of large storage building to rear) and creation of new vehicular access (Departure from the Development Plan). Cllrs R Lewis, F Lewis and Mullender left the meeting for this item. *Cllr Boura proposed no objection to the principle of this application as it would preserve an existing building: two to one in favour. She then proposed to comment that the south elevation gable end should be preserved intact with roof lights providing natural light rather than the proposed gable end windows: this was agreed.* **APPROVE with conditions**

Planning - other

- e. Land south of Worlington Road: public exhibition on 22/11/2013. The Clerk said he would publicise this as much as possible and forward any plans received to councillors.

8. Any other business (with consent of the Chairman)

- a. Football pavillion - Cllr Peachey asked for clarification of who owns the building. Cllrs R Lewis and Mullender agreed the football club owns the building. Cllr Peachey said that the land is owned by the Parish Council and if the football club ceased to exist, the Parish Council would take over the building.
- b. SALC - Cllr F Lewis said the next meeting will be on 3rd December and she will be able to attend.
- c. Remembrance Sunday - Cllr F Lewis said the ceremony will commence at 10.45am and that Cllr Peachey had organised the wreaths. There will be refreshments in the village hall as usual and Cllr Flack had offered to help set up.
- d. Tree trimming - Cllr F Lewis asked if a Church Meadow resident will need permission to reduce a tree. Cllr R Lewis said the resident should approach FHDC planning department about this.
- e. Rubbish on field - Cllr Boura requested that the football club is asked to ensure the field is left tidy after matches and that the 5-side goals are moved regularly. Cllr F Lewis said there is no game on Remembrance Sunday.
- f. Damaged bench - Cllr R Lewis was unsure which bench was damaged but asked the Clerk to obtain a quote for repairs and proposed he could authorise repairs or removal, as appropriate: all in favour.

9. Date of next meeting: 13th December 2013